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June 18, 2012

Via Electronic Filing

Mr. David S. Turetsky  
Chief  
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Early Deployment of Non-Interoperable LTE Public Safety Products, Docket No. PS 06-229, 12-94

Dear Mr. Turetsky:

Harris Corporation (Harris) draws the Commission's attention to recent communications (attached) that indicate non-interoperable and proprietary technologies are being deployed in early build outs of public safety LTE networks in the State of Texas (Texas). Harris urges the Commission to take actions that prevent any jurisdiction seeking early build out to thwart the goal of driving an interoperable environment where build out is supported by multiple vendors and without constraints created by a manufacturer to preclude multi-vendor interoperability.

As the attached email shows, there is a situation in Texas where parties have selectively allowed deployment of one vendor's technology in multiple regions while systematically requiring all other jurisdictions to also use that vendor's technology. Moreover, it appears that the State and the preferred vendor itself have concluded that its technology is proprietary and non-interoperable and that jurisdictions not using the preferred vendor will be precluded from interoperating with the preferred-vendor LTE network.

This threatens the core goal of the Commission, FirstNet, and H.R. 3630: to build an interoperable network, leveraging the economies of scale resulting from use of technologies of multiple vendors, and avoiding the infusion of products that prevent seamless integration of interoperable technologies regardless of brand.

Moreover, the communication attached contradicts claims made by the State of Texas in its ninth "Texas Interoperability Showing," filed at the Commission in attempting to gain authorization for operating its public safety broadband system in advance of FirstNet's nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN) build out. In this document, the State frequently claims to commit to fostering an interoperable, multi-vendor environment:

The State of Texas will continue to promote a competitive multi-vendor environment for future phases of network implementation.<sup>1</sup>

The State of Texas recently released a clear set of high-level objectives associated with the early deployment of public safety LTE. Those objectives have been refined further to read:

- ...To enable early deployments of interoperable 700 MHz PS LTE network layers in Texas.
- To facilitate an open, standards-based 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) LTE environment which supports a healthy, competitive multi-vendor procurement environment for network infrastructure and terminal devices, while enabling LTE suppliers to innovate and produce sustainable products and services.<sup>2</sup>

Multi-source designs will be pursued at the Evolved Packet Core (EPC) core layer, and examined with respect to the Home Subscriber Server (HSS) and the eNodeB layers.<sup>3</sup>

Thus, it is impossible to justify the Commission sanctioning any continued build out or operation of a broadband public safety network in Texas in the face of evidence refuting assertions that the State of Texas is in practice creating an interoperable broadband network built upon a multi-vendor platform. Rather, this appears to validate a model employed by the state; recall that the State of Texas' initial interest in seeking approval for early build out of its own public safety broadband network was predicated upon use of federal funds for a sole-sourced broadband network build out contract.<sup>4</sup> In fact, as a result of Texas' sole sourcing practices, the Commission was forced to reiterate that competition and a multi-vendor public safety broadband market is vital to assure that interoperability can exist:

Indeed, one of the most basic tenets of interoperability is the ability of an entity to construct a network using equipment from a variety of vendors that works together seamlessly. In this respect, a network operator should be able to procure cores, radio access network equipment, and devices, all from multiple vendors, without sacrificing functionality.<sup>5</sup>

The concern revealed in this specific case goes far beyond the State of Texas: Texas' preferred vendor could seek to seed and operate the same proprietary, non-interoperable technology in other areas of the country under Commission Waiver authority – at taxpayer expense through direct NTIA Broadband Opportunities Technology funds. Based upon the communication, it appears that this technology is proprietary and will not allow other vendor products to connect with it.

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<sup>1</sup> See State of Texas Ex Parte, PS Docket No. 06-229 (filed Jan. 19, 2012) (Texas 9<sup>th</sup> Interoperability Showing), 4.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 5.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 5-6.

<sup>4</sup> See Harris Corporation Petition for Clarification, PS Docket No. 06-229 (filed May 26, 2011), 3.

<sup>5</sup> Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Seeks Comment on Petition for Declaratory Ruling Asking to Clarify Language in Order Granting 700 MHz Public Safety Broadband Waiver to the State of Texas, PS Docket No. 06-229, *Order*, ¶ 6 (Aug. 22, 2011).

Multi-vendor deployment is a key tenet for a successful, interoperable FirstNet. It is now clear that the only way to guarantee interoperable, multi-vendor, competitive deployment is, in fact, to require proof that a deployment is multi-vendor or, at least, multi-vendor capable. For these reasons, Texas' Interoperability Showing must not be approved until there is clear and independently confirmed proof that the system they are deploying supports and actually implements a full and open competitive multi-vendor environment at the device and network levels.

Harris appreciates your consideration, and looks forward to your swift action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Marschilok", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steve Marschilok  
President  
Public Safety and Professional Communications

Attachment

CC:

Anna M. Gomez  
Angela Simpson  
Dan Phythyon  
Jennifer Manner